

DRAFT

SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY COUNCIL

Held at the
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California
December 3, 2008

VOLUME 67

D R A F T FOR APPROVAL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Henry R. Renteria
Michael Hauben for John Garamendi
Don Knabe, Supervisor Fourth District
Saul Gomez for Dean Florez, Senator
Pedro Nava, Assembly Member
Harold Brooks, Chief Executive Officer
Michael L. Warren, Chief
Richard O. Johnson, MD

Designee for Governor Schwarzenegger
Lieutenant Governor
County Government
State Senate
State Assembly
American Red Cross
Fire Services
Public Health Officer

MEMBERS ABSENT

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
James Ridenour, Mayor
Gregory Ahern, Sheriff

Attorney General
City Government
Law Enforcement

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES STAFF

Frank McCarton, Chief Deputy Director
David Zocchetti, Chief Counsel
Christina Curry, Deputy Director
Tom Maruyama, Deputy Director
Richard Devylder, Special Assistant to the Director
Mark Johnson, Program Manager II
Helen Lopez, Chief of Staff
Erika Baker, Senior Emergency Services Coordinator
Camille Valencia, Emergency Services Coordinator
Anne Marie Nielsen, Associate Governmental Program Analyst
LaKenya McClough, OES Executive Fellow

LOS ANGELES COUNTY 4TH DISTRICT STAFF

Rick Velasquez, Assistant Chief of Staff

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

William T. Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Michael Brooks, Administrator

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Agenda Item I: Call To Order

This meeting of the California Emergency Council was called to order at approximately 1:00 p.m. by Director, Henry Renteria, Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), Alternate for Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Agenda Item II: Roll Call

Mr. David Zocchetti, OES Chief Legal Counsel, called roll of the members and determined a quorum had been established.

Agenda Item III: Opening Remarks

Director Renteria welcomed the Council members and audience and thanked Supervisor Knabe for offering the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors meeting room for the December meeting. Director Renteria shared that President-elect Barak Obama's transition staff has extended an invitation for ideas regarding the future of FEMA and the overall federal role in disasters. He added that all state Governors met with President-elect Obama December 2nd to discuss an agenda that included emergency management and homeland security.

The Director provided the status of the November 2008 fires with a summary of overall fire activity and statistics. The Director also provided a summary of the recent statewide full-scale Golden Guardian Exercise. He addressed the Governor's signing of Assembly Bill (AB) 2796 and thanked Assembly Member Nava for his leadership on this legislation that would provide specific liability protection for private and non-profit organizations who perform work or provide donated resources during emergency response activities. He added that AB 38, another bill authored by Assembly Member Nava, has been signed by the Governor and will go into effect January 1, 2009. This bill merges the Office of Emergency Services and the Office of Homeland Security and will rename the new agency, California Emergency Management Agency.

Director Renteria introduced Tom Maruyama, OES Deputy Director for Response and Recovery Division and Mark Neveau, Federal Coordinating Officer of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). They provided the status of the November 2008 fire recovery operations.

Discussion: Assembly Member Nava replied that the orchestrated response efforts were well received and the joint coordination was exemplary in Montecito.

Agenda Item IV: Approval of Minutes

On motion of Supervisor Knabe, the minutes from the August 26, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously without discussion.

Agenda Item V. A: Biennial Report Survey (Old Business)

Christina Curry, OES Deputy Director for Preparedness and Training provided a briefing as requested by the Council on the recommended scope of work outline for the development of the Biennial Report. This report must document the State's state of preparedness and is to be completed by January 2010.

Ms. Curry stated the elements for the scope of work outline will identify similar reports developed by other states and other California agencies. It will also include interviews of Emergency Council Members and key OES staff about their expectations for the purpose,

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content, and design of the report. Ms. Curry identified the deliverable/milestone schedule beginning in late December 2008, with subsequent dates in March, April, May and June 2009. In cooperation with the Council, OES staff will ensure the essential tasks and milestones are performed on time in order to complete the Biennial Report.

Discussion: Chief Warren commented on reconvening the Blue Ribbon Task Force by January 1, 2009 and would assist with any questions regarding the research for the Biennial Report.

Agenda Item V. B: State Emergency Plan (SEP) Phase I (Old Business)

Mark Johnson, Program Manager for the OES Preparedness Branch, provided an executive summary of the status of the latest revision of the State Emergency Plan (SEP). Mr. Johnson described a side by side comparison of the proposed emergency plan requirements. The key points of the revision included areas of change for Situation and Assumptions, Organization, Preparedness, Response, Recovery, California Emergency Functions, State Roles and Responsibilities and the impact of changes for the Members. He added that there was enthusiastic stakeholder involvement generated by OES' extensive outreach efforts. Mr. Johnson stated that the draft plan is compliant with current federal, state, and local government emergency planning standards and is available on the OES website.

Mr. Johnson indicated that the final draft Plan maybe available for CEC approval in February and March 2009.

Discussion: Assembly Member Nava stated that residents in the areas recently affected by the fires were uncertain how to obtain evacuation information and asked what worked in other communities.

Chief Warren responded that this was a long-standing issue in emergency management and provided the example of the Cedar Fire in 2003. The recommendations included encouraging the use of Joint Information Centers (JIC's) to provide accurate information, which is a key to success in any disaster. He also added the need to have more proactive local law enforcement in the Unified Command Center and that the JIC is a primary component that should be reinforced.

Supervisor Knabe shared that unincorporated areas in his district had Joint Command Centers that improved activities on this subject. Members Nava and Warren both acknowledged the use of "Reverse 9-1-1®" capabilities. Member Brooks concluded that there are advantages and disadvantages to using the Internet and that having more than one source of information is the best practice. Mr. Brooks further added that there should be multiple sources that provide consistent and accurate information.

Agenda Item VI: Updating Emergency Standby Orders

This agenda item was removed during the December meeting and will be presented at the next meeting.

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Agenda Item VII: Office for Access and Functional Needs

Richard Devylder, Special Advisor to the Director at OES, provided an overview of the Office for Access and Functional Needs and described the disaster issues for the special needs population. The main topics of the presentation included the need for identification, communication, transportation, sheltering, and recovery efforts for special populations. Mr. Devylder promoted the use of leveraging current service systems, ensuring accessible notification and communication, and utilizing transportation resources. He further encouraged the support for Functional Assessment Service Teams (FAST) that assess and evaluate the essential functional needs that can be provided within the general population emergency shelters.

In conclusion, Mr. Devylder provided information on upcoming projects that include the release of contracts to work with four operational areas/counties to integrate disability resources into evacuation plans. The scope of the contracts also include developing model templates, and a training course for sign language interpreters to learn emergency terminology, environment, etc., in order to assist at press conferences, media interviews and shelters.

Discussion: Chief Warren commented that the equipment needs and challenges for disabled residents will require coordination with CalFire, U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

Agenda Item VIII: Future Council Meetings

Director Renteria requested comment from the Council regarding the next meeting and recommended the meeting coincide with the approval of the final draft of the SEP Revision in February 2009.

Agenda Item IX: Public Comments

Public comment was presented by Roscoe McDonald Jr. who provided a question regarding Antonio Villariagosa and his status as Mayor of Los Angeles. Since the subject matter is beyond the Council's purview, the members had no information to provide Mr. McDonald Jr.; and thanked him for his participation.

Agenda Item X: Adjournment

Prior to the meeting adjournment, Supervisor Knabe thanked the Council and staff and extended an invitation to tour the Los Angeles County Emergency Operations Center. Chief Warren complimented Los Angeles County on their state-of-the-art mobile hospital.

Director Renteria entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. On the motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Assembly Member Nava, Director Renteria declared the meeting adjourned at approximately 2:45 p.m.